

## Education and Training Center at Yesler Terrace Steam Plant

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As a first step in the overall transformation of Yesler Terrace, in early 2011 SHA applied for and received \$3.1 million in capital grant funds from HUD to rehabilitate and convert the Yesler Terrace Steam Plant, located in the center of Yesler Terrace where 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and Spruce Streets intersect, into a state-of-the-art space for early childhood education, adult education and job training to support public housing residents' economic self-sufficiency.

This grant represents an exciting opportunity to not only bring a large investment of federal funds toward Yesler Terrace's future, but to save and rehabilitate Yesler Terrace's only uniquely modernist building as a reminder of the neighborhood's history and to find a permanent home for important self-sufficiency services in the heart of the community.

The Center will house:

- Neighborhood House Head Start early learning program;
- Catholic Community Services Youth Tutoring for elementary through high school youth;
- Express Credit Union for affordable financial service and micro-enterprise development;
- SEIU NW Training Partnership for training of home care aides;
- City of Seattle New Citizenship Program for naturalization classes;
- SHA's economic opportunities program with on-site case managers who will conduct needs assessments and connect clients with a multiple resources including employment, savings accounts, vocational education/training, and financial literacy and credit repair.

Over the next two decades, SHA hopes to redevelop the 561-unit, 70-year old, Yesler Terrace public housing community into a mixed-income, mixed-use community of up to 5,000 housing units with neighborhood retail, educational and cultural facilities, health centers, parks and community gardens, while replacing all 561 low-income housing units in the neighborhood.

Fostering economic self-sufficiency of low-income residents is among the Guiding Principles of the neighborhood transformation plan; services to support self-sufficiency must be available in the neighborhood for the long-term. This Center will provide permanent, efficient, functional, flexible and attractive space. The services will be able to move from the less than ideal spaces they currently occupy which are to be demolished as part of the neighborhood redevelopment. The steam plant may at first glance seem an unlikely place for these kinds of activities. With a closer look, one can see the building's potential:

- Central location close to public transit
- Big rooms, high ceilings
- Western and northwestern exposure for light-filled spaces
- Modernist architectural style typical of the time it was built (1941) but unusual among Seattle area buildings



In keeping with the Yesler Terrace transformation plan's Guiding Principles, the Center will have a variety of green building features.